



January 2007

The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter • Alameda & Contra Costa Counties
www.ebcnps.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Field Trip p. 6

Sunday, January 7, 2007, **Huddert County Park, San Mateo County**, to see Fetid Adder's Tongue

Native Here p. 5

January 5, 12, 19, 26, Fridays: Native Here open 9 to noon

January 6, 13, 20, 27, Saturdays: Native Here open 10 am to 1 pm

Membership Meeting, see below

Wednesday, January 24, 2007, 7:30 pm, Orinda Public Library Garden Room

Chapter Board Meeting

East Bay CNPS Chapter Board will not meet on the first Wednesday this month. Instead they will have a "retreat" on Sunday, January 28th from 10:30 to 3 pm to plan for the coming year, set priorities, and develop strategies for carrying them out. Past and current members of the East Bay board are invited to participate. For details, contact nativehere@ebcnps.org.

The next board meeting will be Wednesday, February 7. Details will be in the next Bay Leaf and on the website.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Life on the Wild Side: Plant Encounters in the California Outback

Speaker: **Nevin Smith**

Wednesday, January 24, 2007, 7:30 pm

Orinda Public Library Garden Room (directions below)

We're very fortunate to have as this month's speaker Nevin Smith, a highly respected and accomplished horticulturist and the author of the excellent new book, *Native Treasures: Gardening with the Plants of California* (UC Press, 2006). Nevin's presentation will be an account of personal experience by someone devoted to bringing unusual and beautiful plants to the gardeners of California. He will speak of the sheer joy of prowling the California wilds, of some of their most enchanting plant inhabitants, and of what can happen when one attempts to bring them into cultivation and commerce. He will use some of his favorite native plants to illustrate these points, and more.

Nevin began his horticultural career at a young age in his father's Sonoma County nursery and returned to it after receiving degrees in political science and international studies at UC Berkeley and Johns Hopkins University. He developed a general interest in unusual plants and a specific interest in the natives he found in his travels, which led him to focus his career on introducing new plants to gardeners and reviving the forgotten but gardenworthy. He co-founded Wintergreen Nursery in 1978 and sold it in 1991 to Suncrest Nurseries,

where he has served as Director of Horticulture ever since. *Native Treasures* is an outgrowth of articles he wrote for *Fremontia* and *Pacific Horticulture* about the native plants and plant groups that have most captured his fancy.

We will have copies of *Native Treasures* available for purchase and Nevin will sign them after his presentation.

East Bay CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting will take place in the Garden Room of the Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way (in Orinda Village). The Garden Room is on the second floor of the building, accessible by stairs or an elevator. The Garden Room will open at 7:00 pm. The meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Refreshments will be served after the presentation. Please contact Sue Rosenthal, 510-496-6016 or rosacalifornica@earthlink.net, if you have any questions.

Directions to Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way:
From the west, take Highway 24 to the Orinda/Moraga exit. At the end of the offramp, turn left on Camino Pablo (toward Orinda Village), right on Santa Maria Way (the signal after the BART station and freeway entrance), and left on Orinda Way.

From the east, take Highway 24 to the Orinda exit. Follow the ramp to Orinda Village. Turn right on Santa Maria way (the first signal) and left on Orinda Way.

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MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Once on Orinda Way, go 1 short block to the parking lot on the southeast side of the new 2-story building on your right. There is additional free parking beneath the building as well as on the street.

From BART (4 blocks): Exit the Orinda station, turn right and cross a pedestrian bridge, then cross a second pedestrian bridge on the left. Go 1 short block on the sidewalk to the third pedestrian bridge. Go 2 blocks on Orinda Way to the Orinda Library.

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Upcoming Programs

Wednesday, February 28, 2007, 7:30 pm (in the Garden Room of the Orinda Library):

Bill Graves: "Western Leatherwood: A Bay Area Treasure"

Wednesday, March 28, 2007, 7:30 pm (in the Garden Room of the Orinda Library):

Doris Sloan (author of *Geology of the San Francisco Bay Region*): "Geologic Highlights of the San Francisco Bay Region"

FORREST DEANER NATIVE PLANT BOTANIC GARDEN

The Forrest Deaner Native Plant Botanic Garden, the first and only native plant botanic garden in Solano County, is the dream come true of the late Forrest Deaner, (1928-2004). Just opened to the public in November, 2004, the garden now displays over 2,000 plants representing over 200 species.

Soon after Forrest founded the Willis Linn Jepson Chapter in late 1998, he began the search for a garden site. Working with new CNPS recruits, he worked on feasibility studies complete with elaborate landscape designs on potential sites that the City of Benicia offered. Negotiations with the City presented issues that could not be mutually resolved. The State Parks learned of the ongoing search for a native garden and offered the 3½-acre site to Forrest. Earlier, Chapter members had planted native oaks at the park in response to the State Parks request. It was the best of all worlds. The garden site was situated on a scenic site overlooking the Carquinez Strait, just west of the picnic area, with restroom facilities and a parking area. The State Parks offer came with the free use of the Parks' water system. Forrest and chapter members were ecstatic. On September 1, 2000, the lease for the Garden site

was signed with the State Parks. The group immediately went to work. First, they developed the conceptual topographical map, and then worked on the CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) requirements. On November 15, 2000, the Chapter had its groundbreaking ceremony. The group continued on with the Garden's Master Plan and, after comprehensive review and feedback from the State Parks, finalized the plan in March of 2003.

Forrest never lived to see the garden take shape. He died in May 2002. The garden was named in his honor. On April, 2003, just prior to the first anniversary of his death, the

Chapter received a \$60,000 grant from the California Coastal Conservancy through the exceptional efforts of a team of Jepson members, which included Norma Deaner, Gary Brogan, Alison Fleck, George Harris, Jan-Cox Golovich, Susan Dean, Mary Shaw, Tim Sullivan, and Steve Goetz. The grant paid for the construction of the garden's primary infrastructure, including the garden trails, irrigation system, and the entrance signs. The grant also financed the development of the Demonstration Gardens, consisting of the Residential/Sensory Gardens, the Memorial Garden, the Hummingbird/Butterfly/Native American Garden, and the Wildflower Meadow/Riparian Garden. Ongoing maintenance expenses have been funded through grants from the California State Parks

Foundation, the Dey Solano Giving Fund of the Solano Community Foundation, the Oracle Corporation and through the generous donations of chapter members.

The design and plan for the remaining undeveloped areas of the garden were submitted to the California State Parks early this month, for evaluation and review with the CEQA requirements. The plan includes construction of secondary garden trails, an outdoor education center, a garden orientation center, and

installation of garden benches and will be ADA compliant. Plants on the undeveloped area will be focused on Solano County plant communities.

The Garden is showing its potential to becoming a valuable educational resource. Students from Justin Sienna High School, Napa, enjoy doing their community services in the Garden. Boy Scouts do Eagle projects in the garden to gain that rank. In September of this year students enrolled in Organismal Biology at Solano Community College explored the garden to complete a comprehensive report on California natives for a project looking at the ecology in California



December 2006 tour of the Forest Deaner Botanical Garden by members of the CNPS Chapter Council. Photo by Norma Deaner.

foothills. Early this month, boy scouts from Troop 495 made the Garden a living classroom studying native plants as part of their requirement to become First Class.

The heart and soul of the garden are its volunteers. The infrastructure, architecture, planting design, management of construction workers, search for funding, and ongoing maintenance have all been generously donated. From the garden's early development in January 2004 to November 2006, volunteers have given approximately 7,700 hours.

HEATH BARTOSH

Hello, my name is Heath Bartosh. I'm the current Rare Plant Committee chairperson. I'd like to take this opportunity to tell the Chapter a little about myself and my role with our volunteer-based organization. To start, dare I say I'm a fourth generation southern California native that has defected to the Bay Area? It's true, I spent my life growing up in Ventura County until leaving to attend Humboldt State University where I graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Natural Resources Planning. From there I landed firmly in Contra Costa County where I've spent the last five years.

As Rare Plant Committee Chairperson I am charged with various tasks such as: maintaining information regarding our rare plant populations (although much of that is already tracked by Dianne Lake's tireless work through the Unusual Plants program), providing comments on rare plant issues for Environmental Impact Report (EIR) response letters, collaborating with the conservation committee

and conservation analyst on plant science issues, capitalizing on native plant outreach opportunities, and attending chapter board meetings as well as CNPS hosted functions. As a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) practitioner I also provide map-based spatial analysis for chapter related endeavors. In addition to these duties I have developed other projects to help the chapter in conservation and plant science arenas including a serpentine inventory of the chapter area with a current focus on possible remnant and hidden serpentine bodies supporting unique vegetation in the north Berkeley Hills, an inventory of extirpated and existing alkaline and sandy substrates typical of supporting rare and unusual plants in the eastern chapter area, and developing a system of objectively ranking areas in need of protection within our chapter area in support of the Upland Habitat Goals project.

At a more local level, I am also a volunteer for the Muir Heritage Land Trust based in Martinez. As a member of their stewardship committee I aid them in botanical and GIS matters related to the properties they own throughout

The garden has made a positive difference at the Benicia State Recreation Area. It has generated a high level of interest, participation and volunteerism among the Park's visitors and residents of all Solano County communities.

Norma Deaner, Willis Lynn Jepson Chapter



Beth Pardieck, Stewardship Manager of the Muir Heritage Land Trust, presenting the Volunteer Award to Heath. Photo by Carla Koop of the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District.

the Franklin Ridge area. Recently, I also had the privilege of joining the Land Committee for Save Mount Diablo to provide botanical input related to its efforts.

With all of this volunteering you must be thinking how does this guy pay the bills? Well, two and a half years ago I started an environmental consulting firm with a friend of mine, Jerry Roe, called Nomad Ecological Consulting. Our office is located in downtown Martinez. Primarily our clients hire us for our expertise in botany, wetlands, and wildlife and to aid them in complying with environmental laws, policies and regulations. Field work and the subsequent reports we prepare are typically written for biological resources sections of EIRs although we also

conduct regulatory compliance monitoring, species-specific studies, and provide GIS support services.

When not working or volunteering I'm spending time with my wife and two and a half year old son. She is a high school special education teacher and my son is a full-time toddler with all the curiosity and excitement of a person his age. He has already been exposed to the John Muir Historic Site, and it is hilarious to my wife and me that he refers to anyone with a long white beard as John Muir, especially when mistaking Santa Claus for California's greatest conservationist.

Working with the East Bay Chapter of CNPS is a fulfilling experience. Everyone I have met associated with this organization has been a genuine and an enthusiastic supporter of California native plants. The Rare Plant Committee is seeking volunteers with a good grasp of field botany, geology, and/or GIS. If you would like to volunteer for the Rare Plant Committee feel free to contact me.

Heath Bartosh

EAST BAY PUBLIC GRASSLANDS

A rose is a rose is a rose.

There is no there there.

What is a “grassland”? More to the point, what is an East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) Grassland? By one measure, grassland represents more than half of the Park District’s total acreage in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, some 55,000 acres. That’s an important chunk of public open space and an impressive proportion of the EBRPD property.

But what is it? What does it consist of? Grass, no doubt, and some other herbs, forbs, and trees. But there are various kinds of native-heritage grasslands in the EBRPD, and each has its own set of species (and its own distinctive sweet odors). Park District grassland is the largest such plant community in the local public trust. It has an ancient ecological, evolutionary heritage and contains extraordinary biodiversity, all worth preserving for our children’s appreciation and enjoyment.

There have been exciting developments in the East Bay Regional Park District over the past seven years regarding Park District grasslands management. These include a special EBRPD task force review of its grasslands management goals and practices. The results of that review included a revision of the District’s “Wildland Management Policies and Guidelines”, reassignment of responsibilities among staff for grasslands management oversight, initiation of a five-year study of grasslands management issues, and hiring of new staff dedicated to grasslands vegetation management. CNPS provided input to the task force over the course of its public hearings, as well as before and since.

It’s now six years since the task force made its report and actions on its recommendations began. CNPS believes it is timely to ask “How are things going?”. Specifically, CNPS has invited the EBRPD to sit down with us to address this very question.

Why does CNPS believe it’s important to ask about our grasslands now? Because the ancient heritage of biological diversity under protection in our public parklands is at great risk of being lost. Over the past hundred and fifty or more years that biodiversity has been seriously compromised. Attempting to repair the East Bay grasslands after its long history of commercial use is a difficult and costly enterprise. Sustaining the effort will require determination, focused direction, and wise allocation of resources. CNPS wants the EBRPD to be successful in pursuing this goal of re-establishment (protection and improvement of grasslands for their native plant and native habitat value).

What’s the problem?

Over 90-95 percent of the grasslands is now covered with exotic weedy species of plants. The natives hang on, mostly, in very small numbers of plants, but their future is not assured. CNPS wants to improve the situation, reducing the risk of further loss, and significantly increase the cover of native flora in our grasslands. Can our native grasslands ever be completely “restored”? Most likely not, and CNPS is not seeking such an elusive goal. But, can we significantly

improve the quantity of native flora in our local park grasslands? CNPS believes so.

There are many complicating technical issues related to attempts to improve the native plant quality of our local public park grasslands. Some of these issues interfere with and may even dictate against reaching some specified degree of re-establishment of native species. CNPS recognizes these issues, and their potential impacts on seeking native plant improvements in our grasslands. However, CNPS also holds out hope that some important improvements can be made in spite of current constraints, whether they be technical or fiscal.

Before we get to the point in time when there really is no there there, we invite CNPS members to learn more about what is, and what should be—our Park District grassland heritage. Stay tuned.

Please contact us if you have questions or comments to offer regarding enhancing the native plant values of our East Bay Regional Park grasslands. To contact us and to read more on this topic, see www.ebcnps.org/conservation/grasslands.

Peter Rauch

PLANT SALE ACTIVITIES



Our hopes of having a signed lease for the space at the Dunsmuir Estate will not be realized by the end of 2006. The Parks and Recreation Department was not able to complete the work necessary to place this item on an Oakland city council meeting agenda in December. Our new goal is the city council meeting on January 23.

We met with the Sheffield Village Home Owners’ Association in December to discuss our plans for the new nursery (Sheffield Village is the neighborhood immediately to the north of the Dunsmuir Estate.) They graciously offered to write letters of support to their city council member and other Oakland officials. If you know of another neighborhood group that would like to learn more about our plans, we’d be delighted to speak with them as well.

January is the deadline for many grant-making organizations to receive letters of inquiry about grants for the coming year. We have started building a list of potential funders to help us with the costs of building a new nursery, which we expect will cost many tens of thousands of dollars. If you have any leads on organizations that might be interested in helping our chapter with this project, please let us know.

For the latest news on the plant sale relocation project, visit the project web site at www.monocot.com/cnps. As always, feel free to contact me if you have questions or comments about the plant sale: rosacalifornica@earthlink.net or 510-496-6016.

Sue Rosenthal

SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year, the East Bay Chapter of the CNPS grants scholarships to worthy students. The money to support these scholarships is raised by volunteers who work on the Chapter's Plant sales. Recent scholarships have supported students working in horticulture, plant evolution, park management, ecosystem management, conservation biology, plant ecology, plant physiology, and plant systematics.

Five scholarships of \$1200 each are awarded to undergraduate or graduate students in botany, horticulture and related fields who are interested in working with California native plants. An outstanding student will be awarded the Myrtle Wolf Scholarship and an additional \$750.

Preference is given to students working in, or working with plants in, Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

The East Bay Chapter encourages applications from students in the community college system and students in horticulture.

The application deadline is April 30, 2007.

Applicants should submit the following information:

1. Name
2. Address

NATIVE HERE NURSERY

Winter is here. Many of the shrubs and trees are leafless, but the perennials, bulbs and annuals are emerging. The pink-flowering currant is due to start blooming this month, and some of the other trees and shrubs may start budding out if the weather warms.

Come shop in January to take advantage of our January Restoration Special, a "buy one, get one free" offer of selected species great for restoration: *Helenium puberulum*, *Heracleum lanatum*, *Nassella pulchra*, *Elymus glaucus*, and *Quercus lobata*.

The price list has a few adjustments for 2007. The big change is in the discount policy. The new price list and sales procedures are posted on the web site. The nursery can accept only cash or checks as payment, no credit cards.

It's a busy time for potting up little seedlings, so there is plenty of work for volunteers. We also need to sow seeds the latter half of the month, so come in on the 19th, 20th, 26th or 27th if you'd like to help with that. Native Here is going to be part of the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour on May 5th and 6th, 2007. Volunteers who know the nursery well will be needed to assist that weekend, and in the months leading up to it.

As the weather warms up or if we get drying winds, more watering volunteers will be needed. Contact the nursery by email at nativehere@ebcnps.org or leave a message on the phone line, 549-0211. It's fine to just drop in when we are open, too.

3. The school you are currently attending
4. Address where you can be reached at the close of school particularly in May and June)
5. The school you will be attending in the summer or fall of 2007
6. A description of your work with California native plants to date and your plans for future work with California native plants
7. A statement explaining your commitment to native plants
8. Two letters of recommendation that substantiate your work with California native plants and
9. A current transcript from the school you last attended.

Send your application by April 30, 2007 to: The California Native Plant Society, East Bay Chapter Grants Committee, c/o McCoy, 1311 Bay View Place, Berkeley, CA 94708, 510-981-1991; by FAX: c/o McCoy: 510-848-1789; by email: sandymccoy@mindspring.com. Please put "EBCNPS Scholarship" in the subject; also please call 510-981-1991 to let me know you sent an application by email.

Sandy McCoy

When we started this project, John and I had no idea that we would be providing education to the wildlife. Scrub jays have learned to lift the wire tops off seed flats. Birds learned that they could fly in through the bottoms of the "plant cages" we'd made to keep gophers and rabbits from nibbling the plants. Raccoons have found ways to get into wire boxes, even untwisting ties we had put on them to secure the tops. The raccoons left only 10% of the black oak acorns in the containers they were able to reach. We learn a little, they learn a little. We hope to stay ahead by outwitting them. The first few years, none of the wildlife seemed particularly interested in what we were doing at Native Here, but each year finds a new generation getting the word that the eating is good in that place. We water things when everything else in the park is dry. We assemble favorite foods in little dishes—so what if we cover them with dirt.

Charli Daniels, Native Here Nursery Manager

To sit in the shade on a fine day and look upon verdure is the most perfect refreshment. Jane Austen

*To one who has been long in city pent,
'Tis very sweet to look into the fair
And open face of heaven, - to breathe a prayer
Full in the smile of the blue firmament.
John Keats, Sonnet XIV*

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, January 7, 2007, **Huddert County Park, San Mateo County**, to see Fetid Adder's Tongue

Meet at the main parking lot (off Kings Mountain Road) at 2:00 pm. To get to the park take I-280 south from San Francisco to the Woodside Road (State 84) exit. Take Woodside Road (84) west about 1.5 miles through the village of Woodside and take a right onto Kings Mountain Road. The park entrance is on the right a mile or two up the hill. The main parking lot is just after the pay station. See the December *Bay Leaf* for more details on this walk or contact David Margolies (510-654-0283, 510-393-1858 (cell), divaricatum@comcast.net).

David Margolies

ACTIVITIES OF OTHERS

Saturday January 13, **Tour/Buckwheat Planting at Antioch Dunes**

Join volunteers with the US Fish & Wildlife Service in their efforts to replant *Eriogonum nudum* to provide host plants for Lange's metalmark butterfly. Last fall, the Stamm Unit had an arson fire which likely had an effect on the butterfly population. If you have not been to the refuge before or want to have a look at the perennials and winter birds, come at 10:00 am for a one-hour tour of the Stamm Unit before the planting starts at 11:00. Meet at the locked gate to the Stamm Unit, which Susan Euing of FWS will open on her arrival. Please note that the refuge is an undeveloped unit with no plumbing or water.

Directions: Take Highway 4 east from 680 or 242 from other points in the East Bay, and exit at A Street/Lone Tree Way. Turn left onto A Street from the traffic light at the end of the exit ramp, and then follow A Street north (toward the water) until you reach the traffic light intersection with Wilbur Avenue. Turn right, and follow Wilbur Avenue to the intersection with Fulton Shipyard Road. Turn left at Fulton Shipyard Road and follow it a couple of short blocks to the gate for the Stamm Unit of the Antioch Dunes. Park between the road and the fence; there has yet to be a parking shortage along the fence.

The **Friends of the Jepson Herbarium** are pleased to present a broad range of topics this season. Unless otherwise specified, workshops are held at UC Berkeley. Below are the workshops occurring in January.

January 20: Tree of Life Series—*Microbial Diversity: The Final Frontier* (Dan Buckley)

January 27: Tree of Life Series—*Evolution and Genomics: The New Modern Synthesis* (Jeff Boore)

For more information on the workshops, or to register, please consult ucjeps.berkeley.edu/jepwkshp.html or phone Cynthia Perrine, Public Programs Coordinator at the Jepson Herbarium, 510-643-7008.

SAN FRANCISCO GARDEN SHOW

San Francisco Flower and Garden Show March 21-25 2007

Our booth is reserved and paid for. Unless they move us to a different location because of layout changes, we are booth number 1457, in "Sapling Square", also known as the North Hall.

We are allowed 8 volunteers per day, 2 per shift. So there is an opportunity for 40 very fortunate CNPS members to avail themselves of the **free admission** that comes with your shift commitment. From Wednesday through Saturday the shifts last 2.75 hours, and on Sunday, March 25, 2.25 hours.

The schedule of shifts is as follows: Wednesday through Saturday, March 21-March 24 9-11:45, 11:45-2:30, 2:30-5:15, 5:15-8; Sunday March 25 9-11:15, 11:15-1:30, 1:30-3:45, 3:45-6.

To volunteer or to get more information please contact me by email, Elegans@aol.com or call 510-233-7374.

George McRae

WAYNE RODERICK LECTURES

THE WAYNE RODERICK LECTURES
WINTER 2006 - 2007

at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden
Wildcat Canyon Road and South Park Drive
(South Park Drive is closed November-March)
in Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley

510-841-8732 bgarden@ebparks.org www.nativeplants.org

Saturday Mornings 10:30

Free to the Public

(Notice: Seating is limited. To be sure of a seat, come early and save a chair.)

2007

JANUARY

6	<i>Exploring the Knoxville wilderness of eastern Napa County</i> —Dick O'Donnell
13	<i>Thirteen lilies (+ more) a loop tour of northern California</i> —Larry Abers
20	<i>Botanical adventures in the channel islands: Dudleya and other rarities</i> —Stephen McCabe
27	<i>Ecology of Pleistocene megafauna and the first Americans</i> —Steve Edwards

Don't forget: free tours of the botanic garden every Saturday and Sunday at 2:00

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Vegetation
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 510-223-3310

Roy West
 rwest@monocot.com
 650-906-1100

California Native Plant Society East Bay Chapter
 PO Box 5597, Elmwood Station
 Berkeley CA 94705

Chapter web site
www.ebcnps.org

Recorded Chapter Information
 510-549-0211

State CNPS web site
www.cnps.org

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

I wish to affiliate with:

East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

Other _____

E-mail _____

(optional)

Membership category:

Student, Limited income, \$25

Individual, Library, \$45

Household, Family, or Group, \$75

Supporting, \$75

Plant lover, \$100

Patron, \$300

Benefactor, \$600

Mariposa Lily, \$1500

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento CA 95816

East Bay Chapter, California Native Plant Society
Ballot for Chapter Officers for the January 2007–December 2007 Term

Vote for each office. Place a check mark or x in the box beside each name.

President	Charli Danielsen	
Vice-President	Delia Taylor	
Treasurer	Holly Forbes	
Recording Secretary	Barbara Leitner	
Corresponding Secretary	Laura Baker	

Why vote in an uncontested election? The CNPS members who have agreed to serve as officers deserve the support of the membership. These are volunteer positions requiring dedication and a considerable amount of time.

Please vote and send your ballot to PO Box 5597, Elmwood Station, Berkeley CA 94705 before January 31, 2007.

**California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter
P.O. Box 5597, Elmwood Station
Berkeley CA 94705**

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